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10/729,689	12/05/2003	Steven Whitehead	1251.178	8844
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			08/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/729,689	WHITEHEAD ET AL.	
	Examiner Branon C. Painter	Art Unit 3609	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-25 and 28-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 26 and 27 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/08/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/08/04 was filed after the mailing date of the non-provisional application on 12/05/03. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 2 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities:
  - a. Claim 2, "an means." For the purpose of this examination, the examiner presumes that "an" should read "a."
  - b. Claim 8, "left wall assembly and said right wall assembly includes." For the purpose of this examination, the examiner presumes that "includes" should read "include."
  - c. Appropriate correction is required for all the preceding objections.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 2, 6, 12, 16, 20, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 2 recites the limitation "said heavy duty enclosure" on line 13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purpose of this examination, the examiner presumes that "heavy duty enclosure" refers to the low profile enclosure of claim 1.
6. Claim 6 recites the limitation "said locking posts" on line 23. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purpose of this examination, the examiner presumes that "locking posts" refers to locking posts 416.
7. Claims 12, 16, and 20 recite the limitation "the heavy duty enclosure" on claim lines 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purpose of this examination, the examiner presumes that "heavy duty enclosure" refers to the low profile enclosure of claim 1.
8. Claim 23 recites the limitation "said sockets" on line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purpose of this examination, the examiner presumes that "sockets" refers to the sockets 210.
9. Claim 25 recites the limitation "said U-shaped outer track grooves" on page 45, line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purpose of this examination, the examiner presumes that "U-shaped outer track grooves" refers to the U-shaped outer track grooves 482.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3609

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

12. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 13, 17, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Greene (U.S. Patent No. 6,796,087) in view of Silva (U.S. Patent No. 6,145,254).

13. Regarding claim 1:

- a. Greene discloses a panel system with assemblies for a floor, a pair of side walls, a rear wall, and a pivoting door that can be assembled on-site (Fig. 1).
- b. Greene does not expressly disclose a telescoping roof assembly.
- c. Silva discloses a retractable roof panel ("panel member" 50, Fig. 2).

Providing the roof of Greene with telescoping ability as taught by Silva allows added space for maneuverability when inserting lengthy tools such as rakes or ladders into the utility shed.

- d. Greene and Silva are analogous art because both are from the field of endeavor of roofed structures.

e. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to equip the roof of Greene with telescoping ability as taught by Silva, in order to aid in the insertion and removal of lengthy tools.

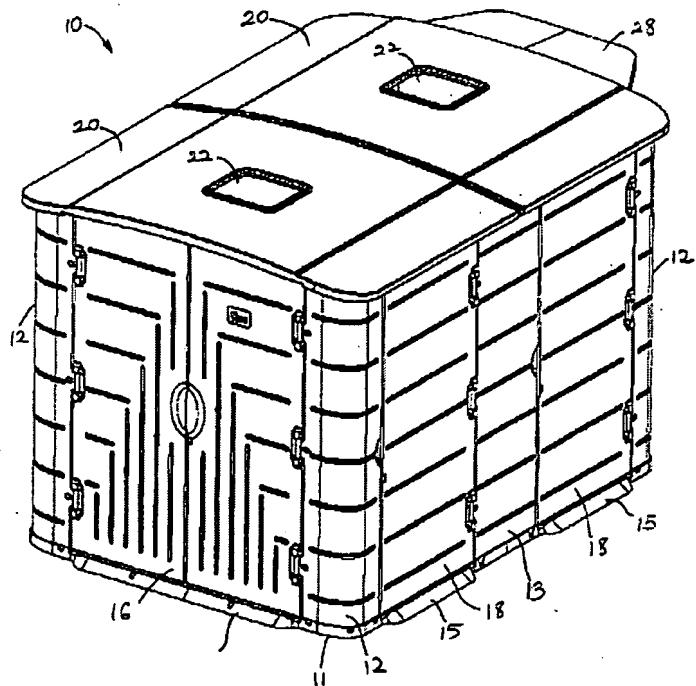
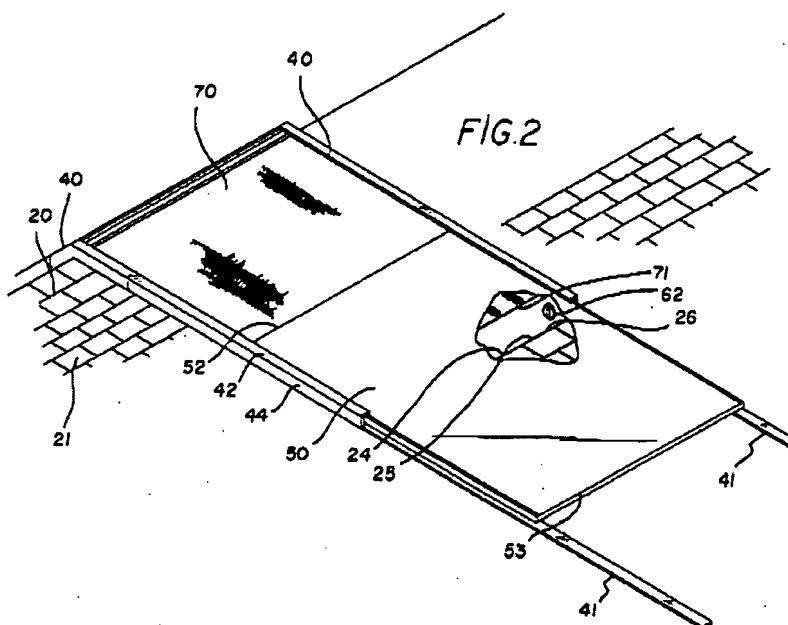


FIG. 1

Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,796,087



Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,145,254

14. Regarding claim 2, Greene discloses a panel system as set forth above, and further including two like-configured floor panels with a top surface with means of attaching to side wall assemblies ("floor pieces" 11, Fig. 4), a bottom surface constructed to "provide strong, stable, and durable support for the shed 10" (column 9, lines 49-50), and a ramp edge ("ramp" 15, Fig. 1). Greene also discloses "the use of multiple, smaller floor pieces may facilitate easier handling and shipping" (column 9, lines 57-58) and locking edges with apertures for connecting with the locking edges of other floor pieces (Fig. 5).

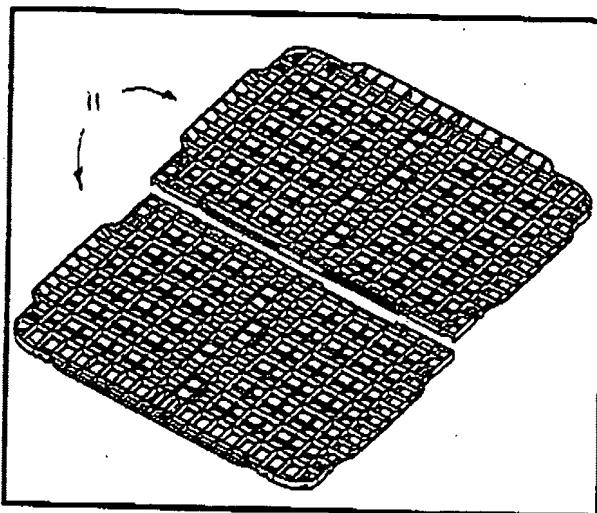


FIG. 4

Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,796,087

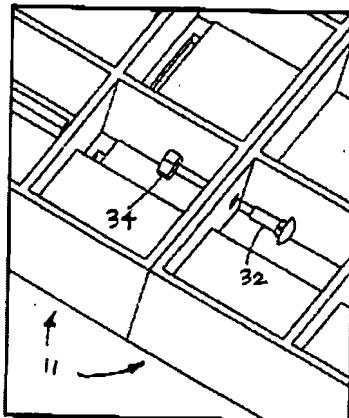


FIG. 5

Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,796,087

15. Regarding claim 5, Greene in view of Silva discloses the claimed invention except for locking posts arranged on the top surface of the flooring assembly to connect the side and corner pillars. However, Greene does disclose posts ("protrusions" 60 and 96) on the side wall assemblies and the corner pillars. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place the

posts on the flooring assembly, as it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Einstein*, 8 USPQ 167.

16. Regarding claim 6, Greene in view of Silva discloses the claimed invention except for attaching doors to the top surface of the floor using hinge pins. Greene does, however, disclose the use of hinge pins and locking posts for the pivotal attachment of doors ("hinge post" 130 and "hinge support" 134 on "door" 18, Fig. 29). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach the door and floor to one another with a hinge, as it is notoriously well known in the art that pivotal attachments can be formed through the use of one or more hinge pins.

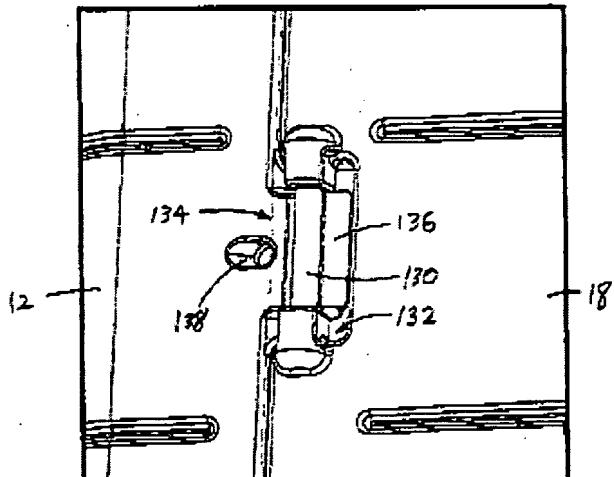


FIG. 29

Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,796,087

17. Regarding claim 7, Greene further discloses cross-bracing on the bottom surface of the floor panel (bottom of "floor pieces" 11, Fig. 4).

18. Regarding claim 8, Greene further discloses a left and right wall assembly, each with a first, second, and third panel (two "corner posts" 12 and "center post" 13, Fig. 1).
19. Regarding claims 9 and 17, Greene further discloses first and third panels ("corner posts" 12, Fig. 1) have a first end with attachment means for connecting a floor assembly ("protrusions" 60, Fig. 8), a second end with attachment means for connecting a roof assembly ("plastic bolts" 118, Fig. 25; "Fig. 25 shows the use of plastic bolts 118 to attach the roof panel 20 to the corner post 12 via threaded apertures provided along the top edge of the corner post 12," column 12, lines 13-16), one horizontal edge with perpendicular attachments (threaded apertures of "corner post," Fig. 15), and a second horizontal edge with coplanar attachments ("hinge supports" 58, Fig. 8).

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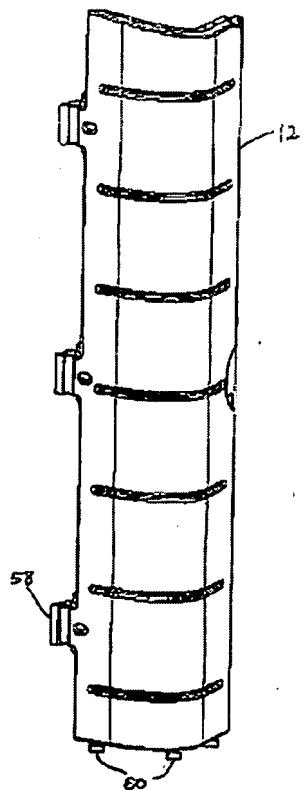


FIG. 8

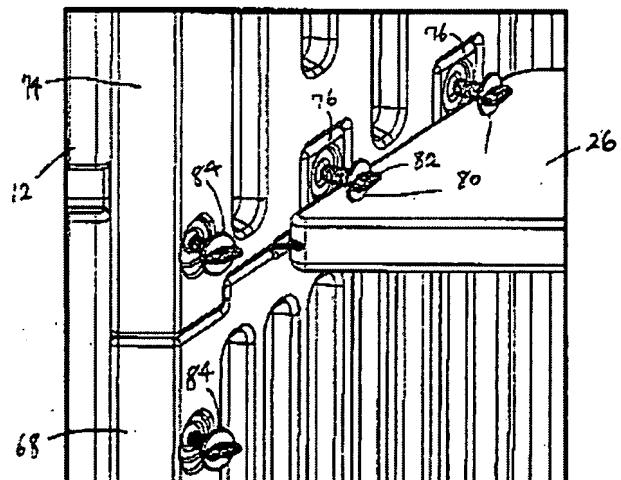


FIG. 15

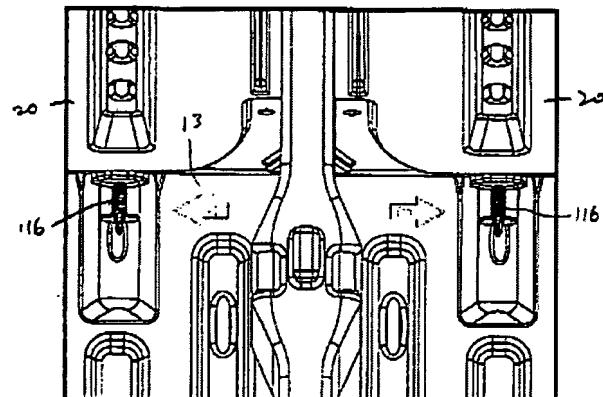


FIG. 24

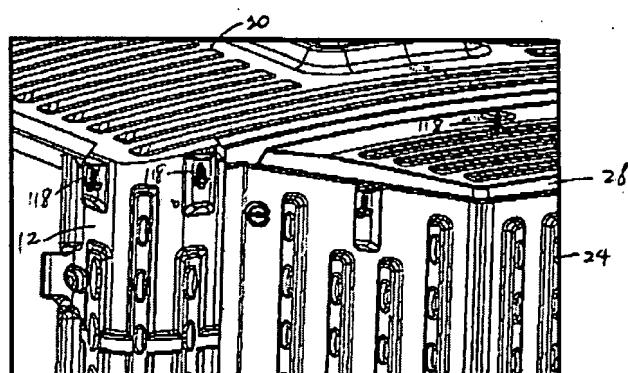


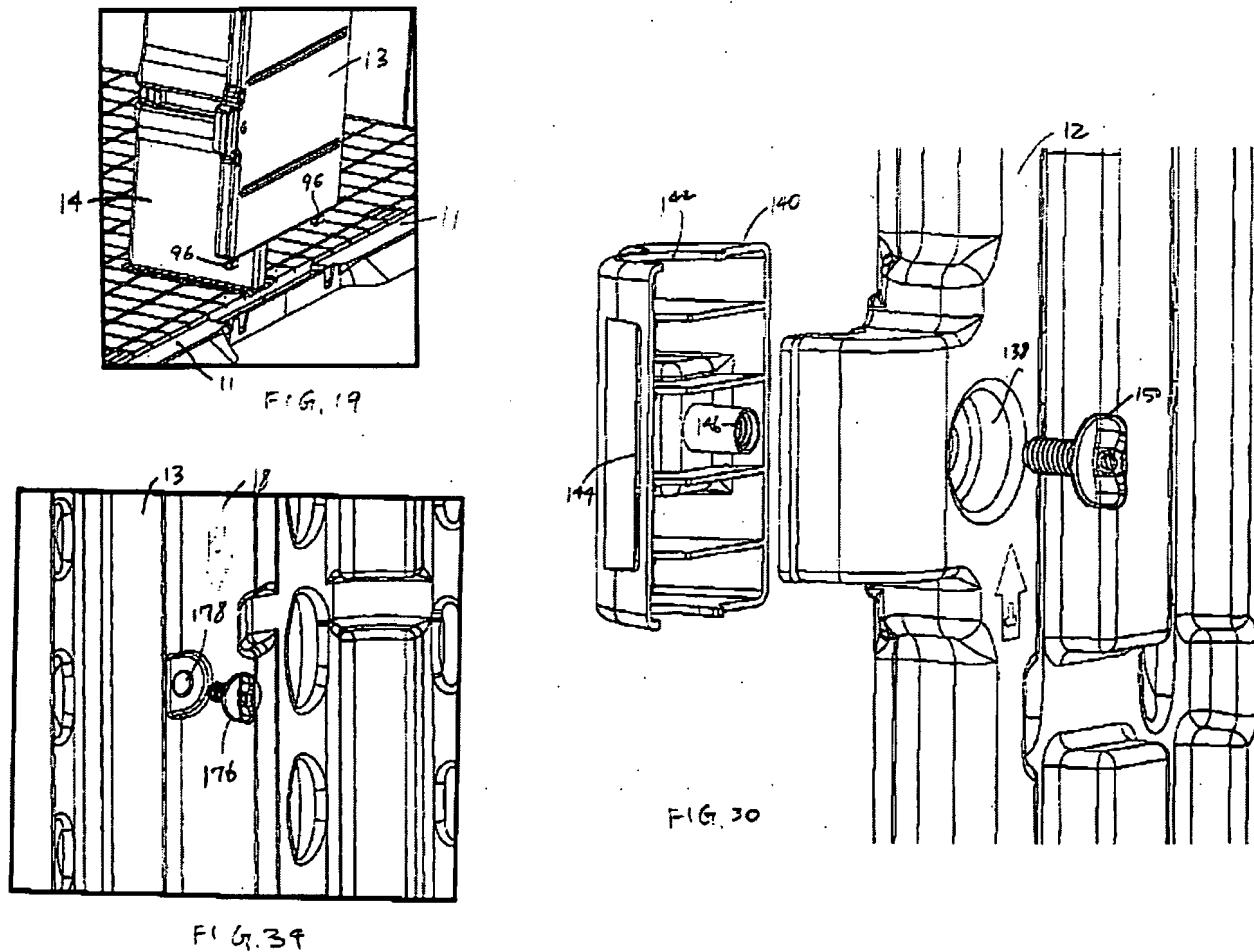
FIG. 25

Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,796,087

20. Regarding claim 13, Greene further discloses second panels ("center posts" 13, Fig.

- 1) have a first end with attachment means for connecting a floor assembly ("protrusions" 96, Fig. 19), a second end with attachment means for connecting a

roof assembly ("plastic bolts" 116, Fig. 24; "Fig. 24 shows the use of plastic bolts 116 to attach the roof panel 20 to the center post 13 via threaded apertures provided along the top edge of the corner post 13," column 12, lines 10-13), one horizontal edge with coplanar attachments ("hinge cover member" 140, Fig. 30), and a second horizontal edge with coplanar attachments ("threaded aperture" 178, Fig. 34).



Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,796,087

21. Regarding claim 21, Greene discloses a rear wall assembly with two wall panel members ("upper wall" 74 and "lower wall" 68, Fig. 16).

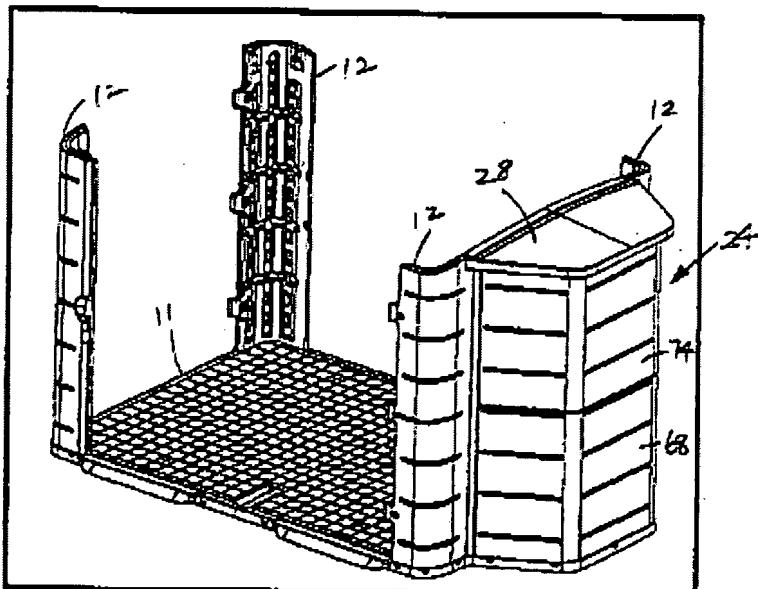


Fig. 16

Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,796,087

22. Claims 10-12, 14-16, 18-20, and 28-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greene (U.S. Patent No. 6,796,087) in view of Silva (U.S. Patent No. 6,145,254) as applied to claims 1, 2, 5-9, 13, 17, and 21 above, and further in view of Paz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,250, 022).
23. Regarding claims 10, 14, and 18, Greene in view of Silva discloses the claimed invention except for the first and second longitudinal ends using an attachment means consisting of at least one integrally formed socket. However, it is well known in the art to use a socket connection as an attachment means between a longitudinal edge and a roof or floor assembly. For example, Paz et al. teaches an extendible shed comprising panels with integrally formed sockets for connecting longitudinal edges to floor or roof assemblies ("side panels" 34 and "conduits" 96, Fig. 3).

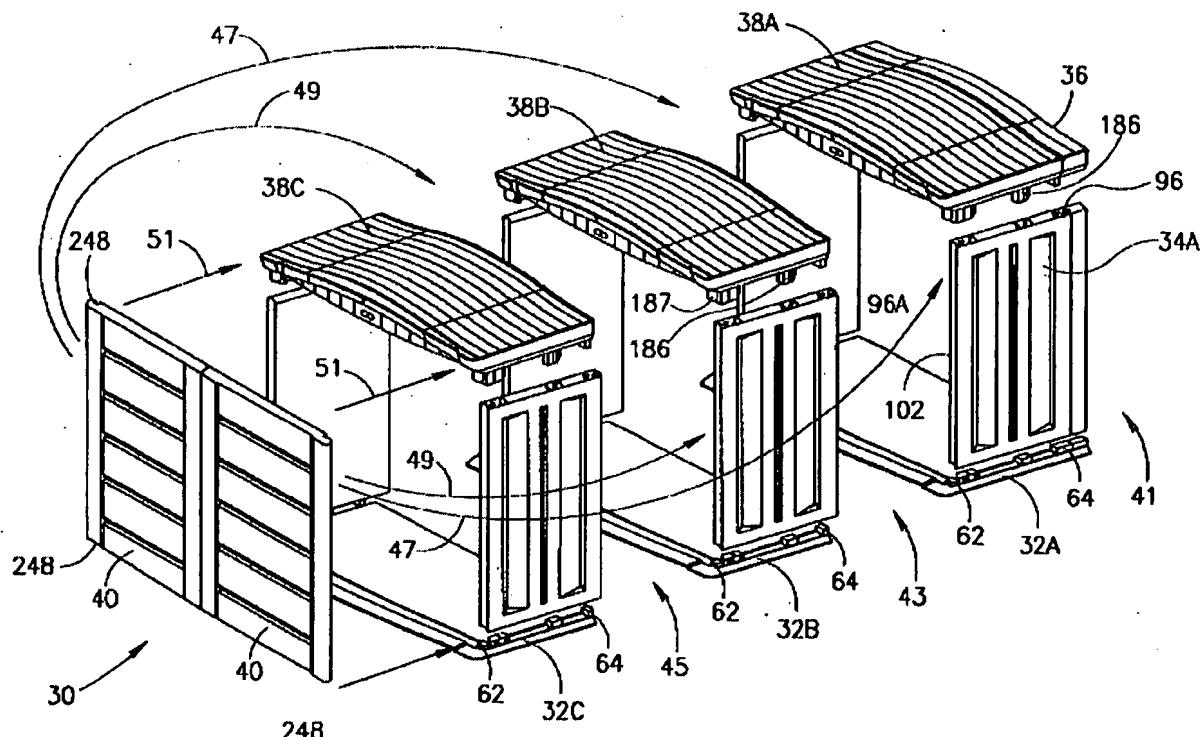


FIG.3

Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,250,022

24. Regarding claims 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, and 20:

- a. Greene in view of Silva does not expressly disclose two semi-circular conduits with an aperture for accepting a dowel and placed in an overlapping relationship.
- b. Paz et al. discloses two semi-circular conduits ("upper clip" 290A and "lower clip" 290B, Fig. 14E) with an aperture ("semi-circular apex" 291, Fig. 14E) for accepting a dowel ("upper disc" 180A and "lower disc" 180B, Fig. 14E).

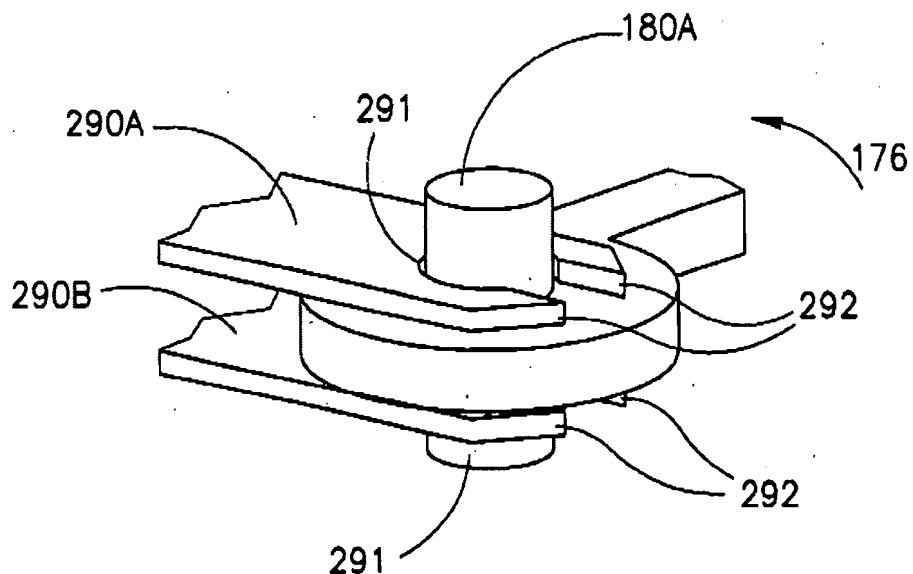


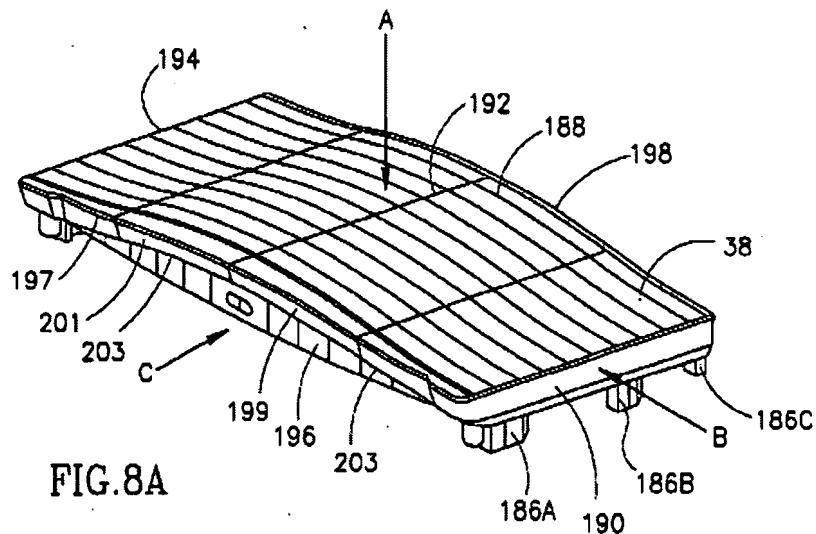
FIG.14E

Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,250,022

25. Regarding claim 28:

- a. Greene in view of Silva discloses a left and right door panel ("front doors" 16, Fig. 1).
- b. Greene in view of Silva does not expressly disclose headers attached to each door panel.
- c. Paz et al. discloses a header above door panels ("gable" 196, Fig. 8A).
- d. Paz et al. does not expressly disclose that the header has separate left and right sides corresponding to and for engagement with the left and right door panels below.
- e. Greene in view of Silva, and further in view of Paz et al., discloses the claimed invention except for separate left and right portions of the header

corresponding to the left and right door panels. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the header from two separate pieces corresponding to the door panels below, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. *Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177, 179.



Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,250,022

26. Regarding claims 29 and 31:

- Greene in view of Silva discloses a left and right door with several integrally formed sockets on longitudinal ends ("hinge supports" 134, Fig. 29) an edge with a conduit ("opening" 132, Fig. 29) with integrally formed hinge means ("hinge post" 130, Fig. 29), and a flat edge (Fig. 1).

- b. Greene in view of Silva does not expressly disclose that the left and right header pieces each have a plurality of locking posts cooperable with sockets located in each door panel.
- c. Paz et al. discloses left and right header pieces each have a locking post cooperable with a socket located in each door panel ("bosses" 187, Fig. 8A).
- d. Paz et al. does not expressly disclose a plurality of these locking posts.
- e. Green in view of Silva, and further in view of Paz et al., discloses the claimed invention except for a plurality of locking post-socket joints. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to include more locking posts and sockets to further strengthen the connection, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

27. Regarding claims 30 and 32, Greene further discloses hinge means with a C-shaped portion ("hinge support" 134, Fig. 29) arranged to cooperate with a hinge clip ("cover member" 140, Fig. 29).

28. Claims 1, 22, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skov et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,581,337) in view of Silva (U.S. Patent No. 6,145,254).

29. Regarding claim 1:

- a. Skov et al. discloses a panel system with assemblies for a floor, a pair of side walls, a rear wall, and a pivoting door that can be assembled on-site (Fig. 17).

- b. Skov et al. does not expressly disclose a telescoping roof assembly.
- c. Silva discloses a retractable roof panel ("panel member" 50, Fig. 2).

Providing the roof of Skov et al. with telescoping ability as taught by Silva allows added space for maneuverability when inserting lengthy tools such as rakes or ladders into the utility shed.
- d. Skov et al. and Silva are analogous art because both are from the field of endeavor of roofed structures.
- e. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to equip the roof of Skov et al. with telescoping ability as taught by Silva, in order to aid in the insertion and removal of lengthy tools.

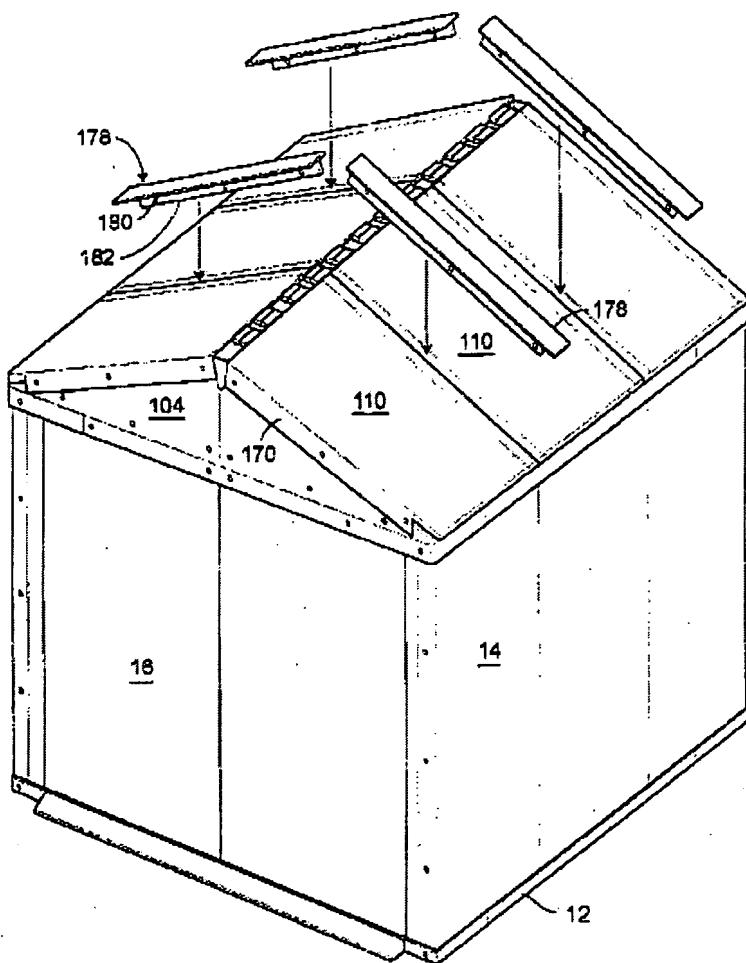


FIG. 17

Reproduced from U.S. Patent No. 6,581,337

30. Regarding claim 22:

- a. Skov et al. further discloses a left and right wall cap ("gables" 104, Fig. 17).
- b. Silva further discloses a fixed roof panel ("screen" 70, Fig. 1) and a telescoping roof panel ("panel" 50, Fig. 1).

31. Regarding claim 24, Skov et al. further discloses a roof panel arranged to accept a steel roof support ("panels" 110 accept "beams" 178, Fig. 17; "roof members 178...may be...fabricated from a variety of metals," column 9, lines 1-6).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

32. Claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

33. Claims 26 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

34. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Branon C. Painter whose telephone number is (571) 270-3110. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30AM-5:00PM, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on (571) 272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Victor Batson  
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Art Unit 3609

Branon Painter  
07/16/2007